AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A fusion protein comprising (a) a first ~~domain to which a ligand binds that comprises~~ polypeptide and (b) a second polypeptide, wherein said first polypeptide comprises a ligand binding domain of a steroid hormone receptor that, upon ligand binding, self-associates, and wherein said second polypeptide comprises a cytokine receptor or a part thereof that, upon self-association of said first polypeptide, imparts proliferation activity to a cell ~~a steroid hormone receptor, (b) a second domain that (i) comprises a steroid hormone receptor and (ii) associates when a ligand binds to the first domain, and (c) a third domain comprising a cytokine receptor or part thereof that imparts proliferation activity to a cell upon the association of the second domain~~.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The fusion protein of claim 1, wherein the ~~third~~ second ~~domain~~ polypeptide is derived from a G-CSF receptor.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The fusion protein of claim 1, wherein the steroid hormone receptor is an estrogen receptor, androgen receptor, progesterone receptor, glucocorticoid receptor or mineral corticoid receptor.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The fusion protein of claim 2, wherein the steroid hormone receptor is an estrogen receptor.

Claims 5-17 (Canceled).

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The fusion protein of ~~claim 4~~ claim 1, wherein the ~~third~~ second ~~domain~~ polypeptide comprises the entire G-CSF receptor.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): The fusion protein of ~~claim 4~~ claim 1, wherein the ~~third~~ second ~~domain~~ polypeptide comprises a mutant G-CSF receptor that lacks reactivity against G-CSF.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The fusion protein of claim 19, wherein the mutant G-CSF receptor lacks the extracellular domain of wild-type G-CSF.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The fusion protein of claim 19, wherein the mutant G-CSF receptor is deficient in amino acid residue 5 (Glu) through 195 (Leu) of wild-type G-CSF.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): The fusion protein of ~~claim 4~~ claim 1, wherein the ~~third~~ second ~~domain~~ polypeptide comprises a mutant G-CSF receptor that lacks reactivity against G-CSF and the ability to induce differentiation.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The fusion protein of claim 22, wherein the mutant G-CSF receptor lacks both the extracellular domain and the differentiation inducing domain of wild-type G-CSF.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The fusion protein of claim 23, wherein the mutant G-CSF receptor is deficient in amino acid residues 5 (Glu) through 195(Leu) as well as amino acid residues 725 through 756 of wild-type G-CSF.

Claim 25 (New): The fusion protein of claim 4, wherein the second polypeptide comprises a mutant G-CSF receptor that lacks the ability to induce differentiation.

Claim 26 (New): The fusion protein of claim 25, wherein the mutant G-CSF receptor lacks the differentiation inducing domain of wild-type G-CSF.

Claim 27 (New): The fusion protein of claim 26, wherein the mutant G-CSF receptor is deficient in amino acid residues 5 (Glu) through 195(Leu) of wild-type G-CSF.